



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

November 13, 2007

Mr. Dale A. Ditmanson, Superintendent
National Park Service,
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
107 Park Headquarters Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

**RE: EPA Review Comments on
Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
North Shore Road, Great Smoky Mountains National Park
CEQ No. 20070418**

Dear Mr. Ditmanson:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 4 reviewed the subject Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, and Section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of this letter is to provide you with EPA's comments.

The NPS selected the Monetary Settlement alternative as the agency's Preferred Alternative. In addition, the FEIS identified the Monetary Settlement Alternative as the environmentally preferred alternative as well as the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) in accordance with Section 404(b)(1) guidelines.

EPA concurs that the Monetary Settlement Alternative is the least environmentally damaging, and we strongly support this alternative. The entire northern shore area is within the existing wilderness designation or the potential additional wilderness area that extends southward to the north shore of Fontana Lake. This alternative will avoid impacts to natural, cultural and recreational resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If EPA may be of further assistance, please contact me or Ramona McConney of my staff at (404) 562-9615.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heinz Mueller", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief
NEPA Program Office